



United States
Department of
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National
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

NRCS Supplement 2012 Handbook

NRCS Supplement Handbook CEAP 2012

CEAP & the NRCS Supplement

As part of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP), NRCS has been working with NASS and FSA to update assessment of the environmental effects of conservation programs and practices implemented within the Western Lake Erie Basin and the Des Moines River Watershed. NRCS is partnering with USDA-NASS to obtain revised NRI-CEAP survey data in order to develop an updated assessment. NASS will conduct a survey of approximately 1,500 farmers within the Western Lake Erie Basin and approximately 1,000 farmers within the Des Moines River Watershed from August\September 2012 through January 2013. This survey will provide farm-field level land management and conservation practice data for cropland fields associated with selected NRI sample sites throughout the regions. The NRI-CEAP survey data will provide needed input into existing physical process models that assess water quality, soil quality, and associated resource concerns, and facilitate the documentation of the environmental effects of conservation practices implemented within the watersheds.

Data for each NRI point will be collected using a respondent (operator) questionnaire, aerial image for the CEAP point, and an NRCS Supplement. NASS enumerators (data collectors) will contact the operators of the selected fields to complete the respondent questionnaire. The data for the NRCS Supplement must be acquired from the local NRCS offices that have the official records for the selected fields. NRCS will be contacted to assist in completing the matching NRCS Supplement. Both the questionnaire and the NRCS Supplement are required for a complete response. One without the other is not complete and cannot be utilized for the CEAP project.

Purpose

This handbook is provided to NRCS personnel to assist in understanding the role of the local offices for the CEAP survey. The information contained in this document is an attempt to identify the data that will be collected using the NRCS Supplement Questionnaire for the field designated for the 2012 CEAP sample.

Accessing and using the CEAP Supplemental Survey Application

This year, the NRCS supplemental survey is being managed via an online interface. As enumerators complete the respondent questionnaires, the NRCS supplemental surveys will become available in the online interface.

The online interface for completing the supplemental surveys is located at the following address:

<https://www.nrisurvey.org/ceapSupplemental2012/>. The first time a user attempts to access an application hosted by CSSM, they will be required to create an account. Once a user has an account, they will be able to request access to CSSM applications. Steps for creating a CSSM account and requesting access to the CEAP application are as follows:

1. Navigate to the 2012 CEAP Supplemental Survey Application:
<https://www.nrisurvey.org/ceapSupplemental2012/>.
2. Choose “Create a CSSM Account” and follow instructions for creating a CSSM Account.
3. After creating your CSSM account, activate the account by clicking on the link in the email that was sent when the account was created.
Note, if you don’t see an email in your inbox, check you “junk” email.
4. Once you activate your account, navigate back to the 2012 CEAP Supplemental Survey Application:
<https://www.nrisurvey.org/ceapSupplemental2012/>, log in and request access to the state you are working in.
5. Your request will need to be approved by the state “manager”. Once your manager approves your request, you will be notified via email. At that time you will have access to the 2012 CEAP Supplemental Survey Application:
<https://www.nrisurvey.org/ceapSupplemental2012/>.

The 2012 CEAP Supplemental Survey Application allows a user to view which surveys are ready for data collection, which surveys are in progress for data collection and which surveys have been completed. The application also allows a user to view an aerial image of the field where the point exists as well as to launch the supplemental survey. In order to see the surveys available in a particular county:

1. Log into the 2012 CEAP Supplemental Survey Application.
2. Use the filter criteria to filter the Points by State and County.

Identify the Conservation Plan for the field where the NRI-CEAP point is located

The NRI-CEAP survey is conducted for a set of NRI points. NRI point identification (i.e., state, county, segment, and point) and aerial photos marked with the NRI point must be used to identify the Conservation Plan on file for the field where the sample point is located.

The “View on Map” button on 2012 CEAP Supplemental Survey Application displays the aerial photo with the location, field delineation, and provides the state, county, segment and point identification, as well as the information on Farm, Tract, and Field if it is available. Links within the application include: (1) a Google Maps image with the marked point location; and (2) a county map that displays all CEAP sample sites.

In instances where the information on Farm, Tract, and Field is not provided in the 2012 CEAP Supplemental Survey Application, some research will be needed to identify the field to determine the existence of a Conservation Plan. State Resource Inventory Coordinators have been provided with the NRI locations in a shapefile to aid in this research.

Conservation Plan And Correct Name

The Conservation Plan on file should be used as the resource for completing the NRCS Supplement Questionnaire. The landowner information recorded on the Conservation Plan may no longer be current. A discrepancy in names can occur when a field is rented or leased after a Conservation Plan was developed and/or implemented under the previous operator or owner. The NRCS Supplement Questionnaire must be completed for the field in question regardless of who is currently operating the field.

Launching the Survey

Each CEAP point that has a completed operator survey will be displayed in the 2012 CEAP Supplemental Survey Application. Once the map has been reviewed and the conservation plan associated with the field has been identified, or it has been determined that there is not a conservation plan on file, launch the survey by selecting the “launch survey” button on the 2012 CEAP Supplemental Survey Application.

Completing the NRCS Supplement

As you work through the survey, your answers are saved each time you select “next” or “back” to navigate through the survey.

Notes may provide important information. General notes should be entered on the last page of the NRCS Supplemental Questionnaire.

Identifying Information

Each NRCS Supplement will have a unique identification number (CEAP ID). The CEAP ID is specific to an NRI point that originated from NRCS in the 2011 sample. This information is used by NASS to link the operator questionnaire with the correct NRCS questionnaire. No editing is allowed for this information.

Conservation Plan for NRI Point

Identify if a Conservation Plan exists for the selected field **AND** if that plan is at the NRCS office. The Conservation Plan is specific for the selected field.

Determine if the selected field containing the NRI point has a Conservation Plan.

Enter “YES”, and continue. If “NO”, the survey will be complete.

If a Conservation Plan is on file in the NRCS office, determine if the name on the current plan is the person verified as the current **operator** of the selected field.

In some instances the owner of the property may have implemented some structural conservation practices, discontinued operating the property but leased it out to another individual. The conservation practices may still be in place and may be considered as part of the lease agreement. The current operator may not be receiving the incentive payments, but benefits from conservation practices that were put into place.

Enter “Yes” or “No”. If it is not possible to determine, enter “Don’t Know”.

If a Conservation Plan is on file in the NRCS office, determine if the name on the current plan is the person verified as the current **land owner** of the selected field.

A Conservation Plan may have been developed for the selected field by a previous owner of the property. The current owner may not have implemented the original plan but the plan stayed with the property.

Enter “Yes” or “No”. If it is not possible to determine, enter “Don’t Know”.

Conservation Plan Reference

The Conservation Plan references will include the County FIPS, Tract Number and Land Unit Number (FSA Field Number) that are used by both Agencies for the official documentation.

Verify/Enter the FIPS code, Tract Number and Land Unit Number

Enter the correct County FIPS, Tract Number and Land Unit Number (FSA Field Number) in the appropriate boxes. Note, the FSA County (FIPS) includes the state FIPS code and should be a 5 digit number. For example, Lenawee County, MI is to be entered as 26091. State FIPS codes for the 2012 CEAP Survey are:

- Indiana – 18
- Iowa – 19
- Michigan – 26
- Minnesota – 27
- Ohio - 39

The correct information must be obtained from the Conservation Plan on file in the local NRCS office. Note that the 2011 version of the County FIPS, Tract Number and Land Unit Number displayed in the CEAP Supplemental Survey web application may no longer be current.

Enter contract numbers

All contract numbers associated with the Conservation Plan should be recorded in the boxes reserved for Contract Number(s). The contracts listed should include those eligible for federal conservation program money.

Program(s) Associated with the Conservation Plan

Identify the program(s) that are associated with the Conservation Plan. More than one program could be associated with the producer’s Conservation Plan.

Select “YES” for all programs associated with the plan.

For each program(s) associated with the Conservation Plan, record the most recent year in which the Conservation Plan was approved. The date of approval is considered a critical element and must be completed. If you do not know the year approved, enter 9999.

If “YES”, then enter the most recent year (yyyy) that the program was approved for the selected field.

Appendix A includes a list of programs commonly associated with Conservation Plans. Options are available to enter in other Federal, State or Non-governmental programs. Please fill out the sponsor and name of the programs on the appropriate line.

Special Initiatives

If there have been any conservation practices implemented through special initiatives (MRBI, Organic, Seasonal High Tunnel..), select “Yes” and specify the details of the initiative.

Other Federal Programs

If there is/are any other federal program(s) associated with the producer’s Conservation Plan, select “yes” and enter the information regarding the other federal program(s). You will be able to enter each additional program separately as long as “yes” is selected for the “next additional program” question.

(See Appendix A for previously identified other federal programs. Additional programs may be entered)

State or County Programs

If there is/are any state or county program(s) associated with the Conservation Plan, select “yes” and enter the information regarding the other programs. You will be able to enter each additional program separately as long as “yes” is selected for the “next additional program” question. *(See Appendix A for previously identified other state or county programs. Additional programs may be entered)*

Non-governmental Programs

If any non-governmental program is associated with the producer’s Conservation Plan, identify the program. *(See Appendix A for previously identified other non-governmental programs. Additional programs may be entered)*

Resource Concerns Addressed by Conservation Plan

Use the “resource concerns” section to identify the resource concerns targeted by the Conservation Plans corresponding to the selected point. Identifying the most prevalent concerns provides a measure of the effectiveness of the programs in place and calls attention to areas that may need additional resources applied either through research or public awareness.

Common natural resource concern(s) that a Conservation Plan may address includes:

1 -Soil erosion caused by wind, 2 -Soil erosion caused by rainfall or runoff, 3 - Animal waste management, 4 -Water quality protection (leaching and runoff of nutrients and pesticides, 5 -Water conservation, 6 -Wildlife habitat enhancement, 7 -Soil quality, including salinity concerns 8 -Air quality 9 - Drainage 10 -Forage for livestock 11 -Hayland management 12 - Other, identify

Select “Yes” for each resource concern addressed in the Conservation Plan. If you don’t know the resource concern for the plan, select “don’t know” for all resource concerns. For “other”, please identify the concern. A listing of other resource concerns that have been identified in previous years is included in Appendix C.

If more than one resource concern is identified, select yes to the “Did you select ‘Yes’ for more than one resource concern above” question. The next question, identifying the MAJOR resource concern that is addressed in each Conservation Plan, is considered a critical element and MUST be completed. Select from the concerns that are identified as being included in the Conservation Plan (from above: codes 1 through 12).

Wetland Designation

Wetlands are areas where the normal condition of the soil is wet enough for a prolonged period to support the continued growth of the plant species that prefer wet soil conditions. For the purposes of this survey, Prior Converted (PC) and Farmed Wetlands (FW) are not considered wetlands. They are a part of the NRI cropland base and managed for active crop production.

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) would have evaluated the selected field and notified the operator of its classification as a wetland if the

operator had requested any kind of federal program benefits for the selected field.

Select “Yes” if any part of this field is identified as meeting the criteria for a wetland. If no determination has been made, select “Don’t know”.

NRCS Classification of Highly Erodible Land

Whether a field is classified as Highly Erodible depends on rainfall, the potential for soil erosion, and the length and slope of the field. NRCS uses these characteristics and other information to classify fields as Highly Erodible or not.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) would have evaluated the selected field and notified the operator of its classification if the operator had requested any kind of federal program benefits for the selected field.

Select “Yes” if any part of this field is identified as Highly Erodible Land (HEL). If no determination has been made, select “Don’t know”.

Annual Management Practices in Conservation Plan

- Identify the annual management practice(s) included in the Conservation Plan that are related to the selected field. Select “Yes” if there are annual management practices included in the plan and select the annual management practice from the list. Continue until all annual management practices are captured. For each annual management practice: indicate if the practice was used for each crop year. Select the appropriate response. (YES, DON’T KNOW, or NO).
- NRCS Field Office should record the NM 590 program if they know that the field is covered under a State program and the Field Office considers it to be compliant with NM 590.
- If the practice was applied to meet the mitigation requirements of the Pest Management Standard (Code 595), select “YES”.

Pest Management (Practice Code 595)

If a Pest Management Practice (Code 595) is identified as an annual management practice in the Conservation Plan, then answer the questions concerning the objective(s) of the pest management plan.

Nutrient Management Practices

If a Nutrient Management Practice (Code 590) is identified as an annual management practice in the Conservation Plan, then answer the questions concerning the objective(s) of the nutrient management plan.

If a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) is on file, select "YES" and otherwise select the "NO". If the operation is not a livestock operation, select "not a livestock operation".

Structural Conservation Practices

The structural conservation practices section is designed to capture structural practices that have been recommended for the selected field as part of the Conservation Plan for the selected field.

A listing of NRCS structural conservation practices is included in the NRCS Supplement (Appendix B) as a ready reference to complete the structural conservation practices section. The listing includes the practice name, practice number, and the units in which the practice is reported and is sorted alphabetically by the practice name. Any structural practices not on the list should be written in and identified with the corresponding NRCS practice code. If this occurs include detailed notes explaining the practice being used.

From the Conservation Plan for the selected field, record the structural conservation practices applied. For each structural practice:

- **Enter the corresponding NRCS structural practice code(s).**
 - Record the practice number for the structural practice(s). Some practices may have letters in them. For example, a cross wind ridge is practice code 589A. Record the practice as "589A". If a structural practice number is not listed, record the practice number as it appears in the Conservation Plan.
- **For each structural practice, select the units used to represent the practice in the plan.**
- **Enter the quantity of the structural practice installed in the field.**
 - Record the quantity of the structural practice installed in the sampled field. Record all responses to the nearest tenth. For example, if the sampled field has 2 wildlife watering facilities (code 648), record "2.0".
- **Indicate the most recent year installed or applied.**
 - Record the most recent year in which the structural practice listed in Column 1 was installed in the sampled field. Valid years are through 2012.

- **If the structural practice was applied to meet the mitigation requirements of the Pest Management Standard (Code 595), select “YES” or “No”.**
 - If the practice was applied to meet the mitigation requirements of the Pest Management Standard (Code 595), select “YES”. Otherwise leave blank.

Notes

If you have collected any notes during the survey, enter them in the notes section.

Appendix A

FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY or OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OTHER FEDERAL PROGRAMS
CRP or CREP
Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP)
Highly Erodible Land Conservation Compliance
Great Plains Conservation Program (GPCP)
Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)
Agricultural Market Transition Act (AMTA)
Water Quality Incentive Program (WQIP)
Food Safety Act
Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
Water Bank Act
Farmland Preservation Program
LTA (LTC) Long Term Agreement, (Long Term Contact)
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
Hydrologic Unit Area (HUA) Project

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)
Resource Conservation and Development Program (RCD)
Colorado River Salinity Control Program (CRCS)
AMA – Agricultural Management Assistance
Forestry Incentives Program (FIP)
Little Sioux Flood Prevention Plan (PL534)
Otisco Lake Watershed Program

STATE or COUNTY PROGRAMS
State Cost Share
TX: SB 503 Water Quality Plan
Water Pollution Control Fund (WPCLF)
UT: Ag Resources Development Loan Program (ARDL)
WI: Targeted Runoff Management (TRM)
Farmland Preservation Program
WI: Land and Water Conservation Program
KS: Conservation Easement
WI: Priority Watershed Projects
MO: State Cost Share, DWP-1
VT: Best Management Practices (VT-BMP)
NE: Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District (LENRD)
OH: Pollution Abatement Program
KS: Irrigation Initiative Allocation
WI: Nonpoint Pollution Source Program
NE: Central Platte Natural Resources District (CPNRD)
MN: Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve (RIM)
NE: Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District (UBBNRD)
CA: Conservatory Compliance
VA: Chesapeake Bay Conservation
PA: Clean and Green
PA: ACT 6 – Nutrient Management Program
OR: Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)
NY: Graze
NY: NYS Environmental Protection Fund
KS: Water Resource Cost Share
NC: Ag Cost Share
IL: Conservation Practice Program (CPP)
NE: Lower Platte South, Natural Resources District (LSP-NRD)
NON GOVERNMENT PROGRAM
PA: Partners for Wildlife

Appendix B

Structural Practice Name	NRCS Practice Code	Units
Access Road	560	Feet
Alley Cropping	311	Acre
Animal Trails & Walkways	575	Feet
Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control	450	Acre
Bedding	310	Acre
Brush Management	314	Acre
Channel Vegetation	322	Acre
Clearing & Snagging	326	Feet
Closure of Waste Impoundments	360	Number
Commercial Fishponds	397	Acre
Composting Facility	317	Number
Conservation Cover	327	Acre
Constructed Wetland	656	Acre
Contour Buffer Strips	332	Acre
Contour Farming	330	Acre
Contour Orchard & Other Fruit Area	331	Acre
Contour Stripcropping	585	Acre
Critical Area Planting	342	Acre
Cross Wind Ridges	589A	Acre
Cross Wind Stripcropping	589B	Acre
Cross Wind Trap Strips	589C	Acre
Dam, Diversion	348	Number
Dam, Floodwater Retarding	402	Number
Dam, Multiple Purpose	349	Number
Dike	356	Feet
Diversion	362	Feet
Dry Hydrant	432	Number
Early Succession Habitat Development/Management	647	Acre
Fence	382	Feet
Field Border	386	Feet
Filter Strip	393	Acre
Fire Control	451	Number
Firebreak	394	Feet
Fish Passage	396	Number
Fish Raceway or Tank	398	Feet
Fishpond Management	399	Number
Floodwater Diversion	400	Feet
Floodway	404	Feet
Forest Site Preparation	490	Acre
Forest Stand Improvement	666	Acre
Forest Trails & Landings	655	Acre
Grade Stabilization Structure	410	Number
Grassed Waterway	412	Acre
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	548	Acre
Heavy Use Area Protection	561	Acre
Hedgerow Planting	422	Feet
Herbaceous Wind Barriers	603	Feet
Highwall Treatment	456	Feet
Hillside Ditch	423	Feet
Irrigation Canal or Lateral	320	Feet
Irrigation Field Ditch	388	Feet
Irrigation Land Leveling	464	Acre
Irrigation Pit	552A	Number
Irrigation Storage Reservoir	436	Number

Irrigation System, Low Energy Precision Application	202I	Acre
Irrigation System, Microirrigation	44I	Number
Irrigation, Sprinkler	442	Number
Irrigation System, Surface & Subsurface	443	Number
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	447	Number
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Asbestos-Cement	430BB	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Corrugated Metal Irrigation Water Conveyance	430II	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Corrugated Ribbed or Profile Wall Thermoplastic Pipe	430JJ	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Flexible Membrane	428B	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Galvanized Steel	428C	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, High-Pressure, Underground, Plastic	430DD	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Low-Pressure, Underground, Plastic	430EE	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Nonreinforced Concrete, Ditch & Canal	428A	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Nonreinforced Concrete, Pipeline	430CC	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, On-Ground Aluminum Pipeline	430KK	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Reinforced Plastic Mortar	430GG	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Rigid Gated Pipeline	430HH	Feet
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Steel	430FF	Feet
Land Clearing	460	Acre
Land Reclamation, Shaft & Adit Closing	452	Number
Land Reconstruction, Abandoned Mined Land	543	Acre
Land Reconstruction, Currently Mined Land	544	Acre
Land Smoothing	466	Acre
Landslide Treatment	453	Number
Manure Transfer	634	Number
Mine Shaft & Adit Closing	457	Number
Lined Waterway or Outlet	468	Feet
Mole Drain	482	Feet
Mulching	484	Acre
Obstruction Removal	500	Acre
Open Channel	582	Feet
Pasture & Hayland Planting	512	Acre
Pipeline	516	Feet
Pipeline, Aluminum Tubing	430AA	Feet
Pond	378	Number
Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Sealant	521C	Number
Pond Sealing or Lining, Cationic Emulsion-Waterborne Sealant	521D	Number
Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane	521A	Number
Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant	521B	Number
Pond Sealing or Lining, Asphalt-Sealed Fabric Liner	521E	Number
Precision Land Forming	462	Acre
Prescribed Burning	338	Acre
Prescribed Grazing	528A	Acre
Pumped Well Drain	532	Number
Pumping Plant for Water Control	533	Number
Range Planting	550	Acre
Recreation Area Improvement	562	Acre
Recreation Land Grading & Shaping	566	Acre
Recreation Trail & Walkway	568	Feet
Regulating Reservoir	552B	Number
Restoration & Management of Declining Habitats	643	Acre
Riparian Forest Buffer	391	Acre
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	390	Acre
Rock Barrier	555	Feet
Roof Runoff Structure	558	Number
Runoff Management System	570	Number

Sediment Basin	350	Number
Shallow Water Management for Wildlife	646	Acre
Spoil Spreading	572	Feet
Spring Development	574	Number
Stream Channel Stabilization	584	Feet
Stream Habitat Improvement & Management	395	Acre
Streambank & Shoreline Protection	580	Feet
Stripcropping, Field	586	Acre
Structure for Water Control	587	Number
Subsidence Treatment	454	Acre
Subsurface Drain	606	Feet
Surface Drainage, Field Ditch	607	Feet
Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral	608	Feet
Surface Roughening	609	Acre
Terrace	600	Feet
Toxic Discharge Control	455	Number
Toxic Salt Reduction	610	Acre
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612	Acre
Tree/Shrub Pruning	660	Acre
Underground Outlet	620	Feet
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645	Acre
Use Exclusion	472	Acre
Vegetative Barrier	601	Feet
Vertical Drain	630	Number
Waste Management System	312	Number
Waste Storage Facility	313	Number
Waste Treatment Lagoon	359	Number
Waste Utilization	633	Acre
Water & Sediment Control Basin	638	Number
Water Harvesting Catchment	636	Number
Water Well	642	Number
Watering Facility	614	Number
Waterspreading	640	Acre
Well Decommissioning	351	Number
Wetland Creation	658	Acre
Wetland Enhancement	659	Acre
Wetland Restoration	657	Acre
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	644	Acre
Wildlife Watering Facility	648	Number
Windbreak/Shelterbreak Establishment	380	Feet
Windbreak/Shelterbreak Renovation	650	Feet

Appendix C

OTHER RESOURCE CONCERNS
Windbreak for Energy Efficiency
Government Program Requirements
Poor Drainage
Nutrient Management
Air Quality
Woodland Management
Hay Land Management
Soil Quality
Reduce Pests
Land/Pasture Management (bush)